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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Thomas C. Barthel et al.) Examiner: Unknown
Serial No. 09/972,812)
Filed: October 5, 2001) Group Art Unit: Unknown
For: ENDOSCOPE WITH FLEXIBLE LIGHT)
GUIDE HAVING OFFSET DISTAL END) Atty Docket No.: CMS-012

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D. C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.97, documents that may be material to the examination of this application are listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the listed documents are enclosed.

No inference should be drawn that the attached list represents a comprehensive investigation, or that any disclosure in the listed documents is equivalent to the subject invention.

The cited documents disclose numerous specific features. There has been no attempt to enumerate each and every feature disclosed by each document, however. The Examiner is requested to review these documents and to determine the extent of the materiality of the document disclosures, if any, with respect to the present invention.

The discussion of any art and the citation of any document herein is not to be construed as an admission that the art or document disclosure is necessarily within the invention field of endeavor, that the art or document disclosure is necessarily prior in time to a particular date which may be relevant to the instant patent application, or that the art or document disclosure is otherwise necessarily prior art as defined by the patent law with respect to the instant invention and application.

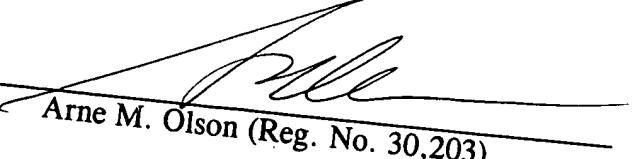
Also, there is reserved the right to later set forth how the claimed invention is distinguished over the disclosure of any document or other art, including the disclosures of the art and documents recited herein, and that may be cited by the Examiner in rejecting a claim in the instant patent application.

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The recitation herein of the art and documents is not to be construed as an assertion
that more pertinent art could not possibly be in existence.

Respectfully submitted,

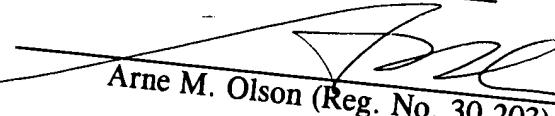
By


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States
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